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# Work With The Cooperative Extension Service



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## **A Career With The Cooperative Extension Service**

Your career could be helping people to help themselves.

Cooperative Extension Service staffs develop and conduct educational programs to help people reach decisions, solve problems, and meet individual, group, and community needs.

Staff members work in rural, suburban, and urban areas in an effort to offer educational assistance to people from all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. People are reached anywhere—on a farm, in a public meeting room, at home, through radio or television, in the outdoors, or at the local Extension office.

### **Nationwide Informal Education**

The Cooperative Extension Service, a system for informal education, was established by Congress in 1914 as a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the State land grant colleges and universities, and county governments. Cooperating colleges and universities are those authorized by Congress in the 1862 and 1890 land grant acts.

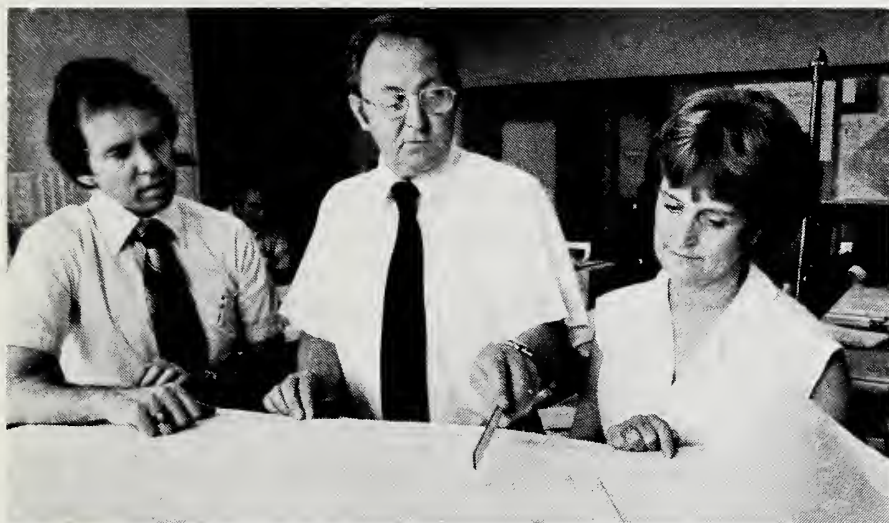
Extension staffs in more than 3,000 counties across the Nation draw on the knowledge of university and USDA specialists and research scientists as they develop programs that help local people apply knowledge.



## Program Building

An Extension staff member studies local opportunities, problems, and needs with volunteer leaders; and plans educational programs with them to help people use their resources to improve communities, homes, and farms. He or she works closely with local co-workers; with State university Extension staffs; and with people from other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Educational efforts may be one-on-one or with groups—or through direct mailings, publications, correspondence courses, computer programs, taped telephone messages, newspapers, radio, and television.







### **Extension Program Areas**

Men and women starting careers in the Extension profession might help in all phases of the program, or concentrate their work in one or more of the major program areas.

- *Agriculture* programs involve those for improved agricultural productivity, conservation of soil and water, increased marketing information, and improved management flexibility for farmers and ranchers.

Agricultural productivity is being accomplished through a greater use of crop management systems, multiple cropping, and emphasis on soil testing. In animal productivity, emphasis is on reproduction, effective disease prevention and parasite control, and more efficient feed use and genetic improvement.







Computers and programmable calculators are giving farmers and ranchers greater capability for accumulating and analyzing data that is essential to them in making marketing decisions and allowing them more management flexibility.

- *Natural Resources* programs help owners of private nonindustrial forest lands better understand how to manage their forest lands to produce timber, fish, and wildlife and to offer outdoor recreation opportunities. Owners and users of rangelands learn to apply improved grazing systems and watershed and wildlife management.

Other programs include aquaculture, fisheries management, wood utilization, soil and water conservation, urban forestry, and wildlife management.







● *Home Economics* education helps people to better manage their human, financial, and natural resources. Young single working persons, families with adolescent or teenage children, retired persons—people at all stages in life—make decisions that affect their lives as individuals, families, and community residents. Extension home economists help people develop skills in areas of family economics, food, nutrition, health, clothing selection and care, housing and energy conservation, and family and neighborhood relationships.



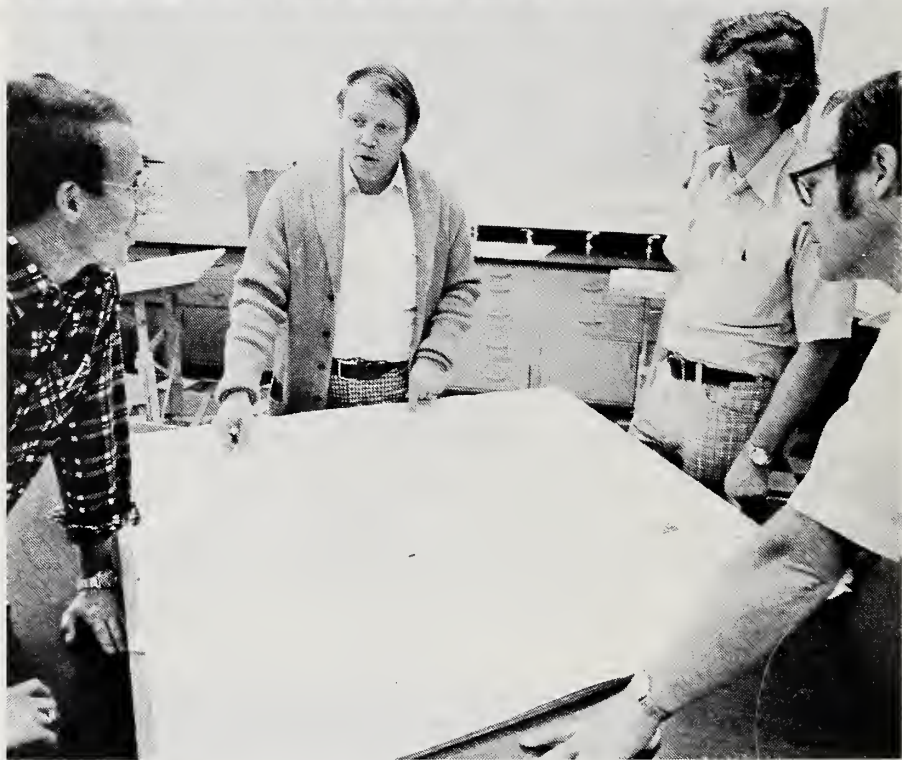
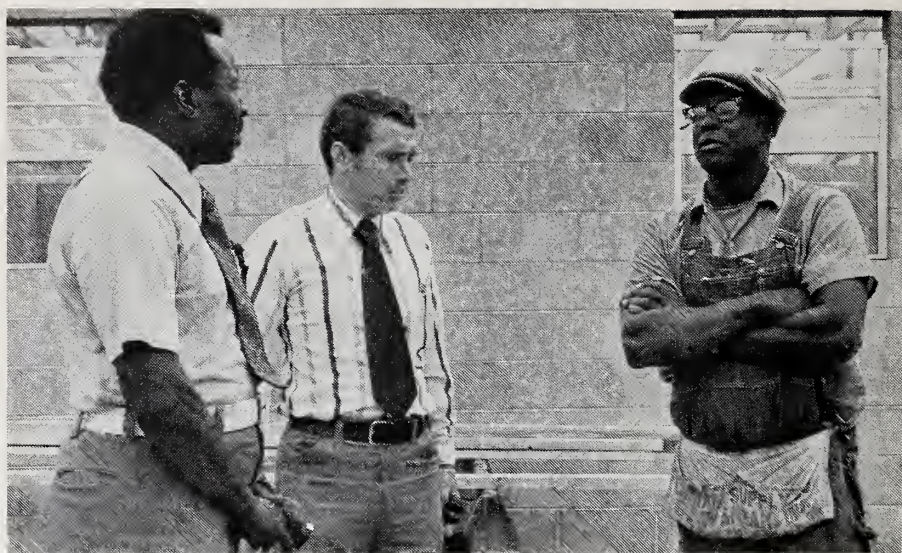




● 4-H Youth programs encourage human growth and development. Youth and adults interact in learning experiences. The four "H's" on the four-leaf clover emblem stand for head, heart, hands, and health. Programs are designed in cooperation with volunteers and parents. Young people participate through organized 4-H clubs, 4-H special interest or short-term groups, 4-H school enrichment programs, 4-H instructional television, 4-H camping, or as individual 4-H members.







- *Community and Rural Development* education helps people improve the communities in which they live and work. Extension educators help communities with surveys and studies, provide needed information, and find outside help, if needed. While decisions are not made for local people, the community development worker strives to help them make the best decisions from the options available.





### **Career Opportunities and Benefits**

If a staff member has special interests and abilities in administrative duties, he or she may eventually head a local Extension office. He or she may also have the opportunity of becoming a district agent or supervisor, a university or USDA program specialist, a State or Federal director or administrator.

To keep up with technological and social changes, an Extension staff member continues studies with on-the-job training through conferences, seminars, short courses, and university graduate work. Fellowships and scholarships are available.

Extension personnel receive many employee benefits as a result of their cooperative Federal-State-county appointment. In most cases, they include:

- On-the-job professional training.
- Annual and sick leave with pay.
- Membership in group health care and life insurance programs.
- Injury compensation.
- Membership in a retirement system.

### **Initial Requirements**

To start, Cooperative Extension Staff members need the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited institution with a major appropriate to the requirements of the position sought.
- Genuine interest in people and their potential.
- Ability to lead, to teach, to motivate, to speak and to write well, and to manage both people and programs.
- Motivation to keep learning and to grow professionally.
- Ability to work as part of a team.

## **Where To Get Additional Information**

The Extension agents where you live will be happy to discuss your future career plans with you. Their offices usually are listed in the phone book under county government.

You may also write to the director/administrator of your State Extension Service for more information about a career in the Cooperative Extension Service. Here are addresses for the land grant colleges and universities.

**Alabama** - Auburn University, Auburn 36849

- Alabama A&M University, Normal 35762

- Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee 36088

**Alaska** - University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701

**American Samoa** - American Samoa Community College,  
Mapusaga Campus, P.O. Box 2609,  
Pago Pago 96799

**Arizona** - University of Arizona, Tucson 85721

**Arkansas** - University of Arkansas, Little Rock 72203

- University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff 71601

**California** - University of California, Berkeley 94720

**Colorado** - Colorado State University, Fort Collins 80523

**Connecticut** - University of Connecticut, Storrs 06268

**Delaware** - University of Delaware, Newark 19711

- Delaware State College, Dover 19901

**District of Columbia** - University of the District of  
Columbia, Washington, DC 20005

**Florida** - University of Florida, Gainesville 32611

- Florida A&M University, Tallahassee 32307

**Georgia** - University of Georgia, Athens 30602

- The Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley 31030

**Guam** - University of Guam, Agana 96910

**Hawaii** - University of Hawaii, Honolulu 96822

**Idaho** - University of Idaho, Moscow 83843

**Illinois** - University of Illinois, Urbana 61801

**Indiana** - Purdue University, West Lafayette 47907

**Iowa** - Iowa State University, Ames 50011

**Kansas** - Kansas State University, Manhattan 66506

**Kentucky** - University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506

- Kentucky State University, Frankfort 40601

**Louisiana** - Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge 70803

- Southern University and A&M College,  
Baton Rouge 70813

**Maine** - University of Maine, Orono 04473

**Maryland** - University of Maryland, College Park 20742

- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore,  
Princess Anne 21853

**Massachusetts** - University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst 01003

**Michigan** - Michigan State University, East Lansing 48824

**Micronesia** - College of Micronesia, Ponape, E.C.I. 96941

**Minnesota** - University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108



**Mississippi** - Mississippi State University, Mississippi State 39762  
                   - Alcorn State College, Lorman 39096

**Missouri** - University of Missouri, Columbia 65211  
                   - Lincoln University, Jefferson City 65101

**Montana** - Montana State University, Bozeman 59715

**Nebraska** - University of Nebraska, Lincoln 68583

**Nevada** - University of Nevada, Reno 89557

**New Hampshire** - University of New Hampshire, Durham 03824

**New Jersey** - Rutgers State University, New Brunswick 08903

**New Mexico** - New Mexico State University, Las Cruces 88003

**New York** - New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca 14853

**North Carolina** - North Carolina State University, Raleigh 27650  
                   - North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro 27420

**North Dakota** - North Dakota State University, Fargo 58105

**Ohio** - The Ohio State University, Columbus 43210

**Oklahoma** - Oklahoma State University, Stillwater 74078  
                   - Langston University, Langston 73050

**Oregon** - Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331

**Pennsylvania** - The Pennsylvania State University, University Park 16802

**Puerto Rico** - University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez 00708

**Rhode Island** - University of Rhode Island, Kingston 02881

**South Carolina** - Clemson University, Clemson 29631  
                   - South Carolina State College, Orangeburg 29115

**South Dakota** - South Dakota State University, Brookings 57006

**Tennessee** - University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37901  
                   - Tennessee State University, Nashville 37203

**Texas** - Texas A&M University, College Station 77843  
                   - Prairie View A&M College, Prairie View 77445

**Utah** - Utah State University, Logan 84321

**Vermont** - University of Vermont, Burlington 05401

**Virginia** - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg 24061  
                   - Virginia State College, Petersburg 23803

**Virgin Islands** - College of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix 00850

**Washington** - Washington State University, Pullman 99164

**West Virginia** - West Virginia University, Morgantown 26506

**Wisconsin** - University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706

**Wyoming** - University of Wyoming, Laramie 82070

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